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### BIOGRAPHIES WANTED

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By CYRUS DERICKSON

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\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* The Bebee Settlement was so called because so many farmers of that name, farmers boeing their corn when some-Graves, as the stranger gave his name, was one of the partners in a big publishing house which made a specialty of publishing the biographies of the The name of Bebee, as he had discoved back to the year 900 and bad been borne by princes, dukes, counts, bar- to him he straightened up and said: ons, poets and soldiers. What Mr. Graves wanted was to bring the Bebee blography down to Silas and let the world know that the family was still pages of the gilt backed book he was ings of Silas, while the eleventh page should be taken up with a full length | ed: portrait of the sturdy old farmer. The biography and the portrait would be

have to come down with \$25 in cash. "I don't think I'll trade," was the reply when the caller had stated his case. he turned away with:

"Very-well, Mr. Bebee. As you are the most prominent of the family, I naturally came to you first, but as you and two daughters, and all had to go don't care for the honors I shall go to into that book regardless of space or Reuben. I think he will jump at the opportunity, being as he wants to be elected county supervisor next year. Good day, Mr. Bebee."

There wasn't a feeling of brotherly wanted to "run things," and naturally supervisor himself, and it was news to him and news he did not like that Reuben was planning to mix in. He did some rapid thinking. Mr. Graves had not climbed into his buggy when he was called back and a bargain conclud-



BY GUM, I ALWAYS KNEW SILAS BEREF WAS A SNEAK."

ed. The rest of the afternoon and all the evening were spent in listening to Silas Bebee's history, covering a period of some fifty-six years. Mr. Graves made copious notes and nodded his head from time to time, and all went well with the story. Bedfine had come, and Silas had given in sufficient matter for his ten pages when his wife, who had all along been doing a heap of thinking, rose and inquired:

"Silas, am I to be left out of this thing as if I didn't amount to shucks? If I haven't helped you to be the biggest toad in the puddle, who has?" "They never say anything in books When in need of anything in my line: about big women, do they?" he asked

of Mr. Graves. "Well, very seldom," was the reply. East Jordan of believe they have mentioned Cleopatra and one or two others, but those were exceptional cases. Still, as your wife says"

The result was that Mrs. Silas Bebee RESTORES VITALITY in the book, all for the sum of \$8 cash was given three pages and a portrait in advance, and the clock had struck midnight before she got through telling how often she had had rheumatism, hysteries and bronchitis and how many yards of rag carpet and barrels of soft soap she had made during her. married life. There was a son in the family named Joe. He had nothing to say that evening, but he got up next morning to claim his rights. As the son of Bebee and the biggest Bebee of them all, he wanted to be known of men, and it was finally decided that he should have two pages and a portrait for \$5. It was dog cheap, and Mr. Graves would lose money on it, but be had started out to see the Bebee family through and must do it even if he went broke. It took him three days to get through with the family, during which he had free board and lodgings as a matter of course, and then he headed for the house of Reuben. It was understood that he must call there to ask Reuben his exact age, but he

must not go beyond that. Reuben was

in the cornfield with his hoe, and he leaned against the fence and heard what the publisher had to say and then

"By gum, but I always knowed Silas Bebee was a sneak, and now it's proved! He wants folks to think he's the big Bebee, does he? Wants the world to believe that all the other Bebees stand around and look at him with their mouths open? Waal, I'll bust up his little circus for him!"

Mr. Graves had struck a good thing, and he was the man to push it. Reuben and all related, had settled there. It wanted more pages than Slian had. was at peace with all mankind and the His sons wanted to spread out in a liberal manner, and Mr. Graves fixed thing like a cloudburst happened. A matters to suit them and himself. He stranger arrived at the house of Silas had free board and lodgings for four Bebee and sat down to a boiled dinner days and departed with cash enough with him and afterward held a long to buy a fur lined overcoat for the and interesting conversation. Mr. next winter. In honor bound, as he informed Reuben, he must call on Sala-thiel Bebee, but only to make sure whether his grandfather was bitten by a mad dog in the state of Ohio or Michold and eminent families of America. Igan. He called. Salathiel was uprooting the pigweeds which had crept ered by long and patient research, dat- Into his garden, and when Mr. Graves had explained the biography business

"You kin pass right on. I ain't buyin' no gold bricks today." But Mr. Graves didn't pass. He showed the contracts entered into with on tap and as eminent as in days of Silas and Reuben, and he added the

yore. He wanted to fill at least ten remark that it was too bad there were only two eminent families of Bebees. getting out with the sayings and do- Then Salathlel struck the trunk of a cherry tree with his fist and exclaim-

"By John Rodgers, but the idea of them Bebees passin' themselves off free, but in order to cover the cost of the smartest and best in America? the glue and the stitching Silas would They do know how to farm, and I won't go for to deny it, but as for bein' big guns they ain't knee high. I'm no hand to brag, but if I don't lay over Mr. Graves seemed to have prepared SDs and Reube every day in the week himself for just such an answer, and then you kin kick me clear across the barnyard."

The rest was easy, of course. There were Salathiel, his wife and two sons cost. Mr. Graves was not an impetuous man, and he took his time writing out his notes and managed to get five days' free board and lodgings. Then he departed to "work" Moses, Abralove between Silas and Reuben, Both ham, Joab, Peter, Paul and several other Bebees, securing victims in each that brought about a clash. Silas bad and every family and in one instance some thoughts of running for county taking in everything from the grandmother down to the infant in the cradle. He put in a full mouth at his work, and he had the best hads and the best menls. After his coming the Bebees no longer neighbored, and they passed each other with their heads held high and their noses turned up. In one or two cases the young men came to blows, and lawsuits were started over old matters. Things were edging along toward a grievous state of affairs when Mr. Graves and bis notes and his money departed, and three days later a desective arrived in search of him and exposed him as a swindler. The Bebees didn't want to and couldn't believe it at first, but the evidence submitted was too strong for them to stand against, and after a due amount of weeping and wailing and swearing a meeting of all the families was held, and it was unanimously

"Resolved, That while the Bebees date back to the year 900 this year Will pay the Highest Market Price for saw the whole durn caboodle making fools of themselves without reason or excuse, and we won't do it again."

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1 Second Prize
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